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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/147,520	02/22/99	TOMOMATSU	R 2421-0331-2X

MMC1/0510
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EXAMINER	
ROSENBERGER, R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 05/10/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/147,520

Applicant(s)
Tomomatsu

Examiner
Richard Rosenberger

Group Art Unit
2877



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☒ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. The specification is objected to as being unclear as to what the claimed invention is. At several points in the specification, on being page 17, line 4, the device is referred to as a "polarizing microscope". There is, however, no structure disclosed which would make the disclosed and claimed device a polarizing microscope; there are, for example no polarizers or analyzers disclosed.

3. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification does not adequately disclose the use of optical fibers in the device.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 10, "the tubular member" has no antecedent basis.

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 5, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the device of figure 1 of the Nakazawa et al patent (US 4,112,309).

Figure 1 of the Nakazawa patent shows a apparatus with a light source (1) for applying light to an object (5) to be measured, and an objective lens (4) located

"opposite" the surface for receiving light from the light source which has been reflected by the surface. That device has a light detection unit (11) for detecting a component incident on the objective lens from a direction parallel to its optical axis, and has a slit (9; see column 1, line 39) provided in the optical path between the objective lens and the detection means.

9. Claims 1-9, 11 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiraishi (US 5,706,091).

The reference shows a system in which light is directed onto a surface to be inspected with a light source (1) and an objective lens (9) collecting reflected light. There is a slit (26) and a detector (28). There is an illumination switchover means (7) to switch between bright field and dark field illumination. The slit (26) is adjustable (column 19, lines 38-41). Calibrating the instrument using a standard known object would have been obvious. Placing the receiving optics in a tubular housing would have been obvious; such housings are standard in the art.

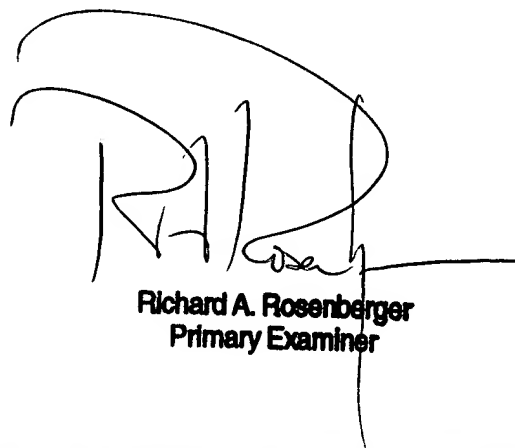
10. Siegel et al (US 4,720,191) and Haga (US 5,745,236) show systems which use both bright field and dark field detection. Haga et al (US 5,737,074) shows a system such as is claimed in the independent claims with an adjustable slit.

11. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (15 November 1989). The fax number is (703) 308-7722.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. A. Rosenberger whose telephone number is (703) 308-4804.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

R. A. Rosenberger
5 May 2000



Richard A. Rosenberger
Primary Examiner